

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 EB-07 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4571
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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USSEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, VN, US, DA
SUBJECT: PHAM VAN DONG'S VISIT TO DENMARK: THE DANES GO ALL OUT

REF: A. COPENHAGEN 2791 B. HELSINKI 1156 C. COPENHAGEN 1671

SUMMARY: THE DANISH GOVERNMENT WENT ALL OUT TO EXTEND A
WARM WELCOME TO A TIRED VIETNAMESE PREMIER, PHAM VAN
DONG, WHO VISITED HERE MAY 31-JUNE 2. THE FOCUS OF THE
DANISH WELCOME WAS THEIR HISTORICAL SUPPORT FOR "VIETNAMESE
INDEPENDENCE." IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE - AND IN TALKS
WITH DANISH OFFICIALS - PHAM STRESSED THAT RELATIONS
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WITH THE US COULD NOT BE NORMALIZED UNTIL IT FULFILLS ITS
"OBLIGATION" TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO HIS
COUNTRY. ACCORDING TO THE DANES, PHAM ALSO DISPLAYED
"SUSPICION AND INTRANSIGENCE" TOWARD THE US.
PRESS COVERAGE WAS SPOTTY WITH
ONLY ONE DAILY REPORTING AND COMMENTING ON A SPEECH
BY PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN WHICH CONTAINED GRATUI-

TOUS COMMENTS ABOUT THE US (SEPTTEL). END SUMMARY.

1. VIETNAM'S PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG LEFT COPENHAGEN EARLY JUNE 2 FOR OSLO AFTER AN OFFICIAL VISIT HERE WHICH BEGAN MIDDAY MAY 31 WHEN HE ARRIVED FROM HELSINKI. PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN'S SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT PULLED ALL THE STOPS TO ASSURE PHAM A VERY WARM WELCOME. INDEED, AS FAR AS THE DANES WERE CONCERNED, THE VISIT FOCUSED ON THEIR IDENTIFICATION WITH AND SUPPORT FOR THE VIETNAMESE STRUGGLE FOR "INDEPENDENCE", PARTICULARLY AGAINST THE GREAT US "WAR MACHINE." THIS THEME WAS MOST FULLY ORCHESTRATED IN A SPEECH BY JORGENSEN WHICH CONTAINED GRAUITOUS REFERENCES TO THE US (SEPTTEL).

2. JUST AFTER PHAM'S DEPARTURE, THE PRIME MINISTER'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISOR HENNING OTTLIEB ASKED POL COUNS TO COME AROUND ON FRIDAY, JUNE 3 FOR A BRIEFING ON THE VISIT (ALSO SEE SEPTTEL). THE PRESENT MESSAGE REPORTS THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF PHAM'S VISIT AS WELL AS THE DANES' IMPRESSIONS OF VIETNAMESE ATTITUDES TOWARD THE U.S.

3. PHAM'S IL-18 BROKE DOWN IN HELSINKI X THE VIETNAMESE DELGATION ARRIVED ABOARD A HASTILY-LEASED FINNAIR DC-9 ABOUT AN HOUR LATE AT THE DANISH AIR FORCE BASE AT VAERLOSE, NORTH OF COPENHAGEN, AND LEFT FROM THERE JUNE 2 ABOARD A CHARTERED AEROFLOT AIRCRAFT. (SOME PRIVATE LOCAL COMMENT HAS ADDUCED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ADDITIONAL "SPECIAL TREATMENT" OF THE VIETNAMESE BY THEIR USE OF VAERLOSE. LOCAL COMMENTATORS ALSO POINTED TO THE LODGING OF PHAM AND HIS PRINCIPAL COLLABORATORS AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE -SELDOM USED TO HOUSE VISITING HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. GOTTLIEB EXPLAINED THAT VAERLOSE WAS CHOSEN BECAUSE OF ITS PROXIMITY TO THE QUEEN'S SUMMER RESIDENCE, FREDENSBORG CASTLE, AND ADEQUATE HOTEL SPACE FOR THE ORIGINAL 40-PLUS IN THE PARTY WAS UNAVAILABLE.)

4. PHAM WAS EMBRACED ON ARRIVAL BY JORGENSEN (UNUSUAL FOR A DANE) AND THE PARTY SPED OFF TO FREDENSBORG FOR LUNCH WITH THE QUEEN AND PRINCE HENRIK AT WHICH THE LATTER REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED HIS RECOLLECTIONS OF VIETNAM WITH PHAM IN VIETNAMESE.

5. THERE WERE CALLS ON THE DISCUSSIONS WITH JORGENSEN AND FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN THE AFTERNOON OF

MAY 31, PHAM'S BREAKFAST JUNE 1 AT JORGENSEN'S VERY MODEST PRIVATE HOME (HIGHLY UNUSUAL), A GOVERNMENT LUNCH THE SAME DAY, WHERE JORGENSEN DELIVERED HIS CONTROVERSIAL SPEECH, AND A PRESS CONFERENCE. AT THE REQUEST OF THE VIETNAMESE, NOTHING WAS SCHEDULED EITHER OF THE EVENINGS (A SOURCE IN DANISH PROTOCOL TOLD US THAT PHAM WAS WEAK AND SOMEWHAT INFIRM DURING THE VISIT--E.G. HE HAD TO BE HELPED UP STAIRS--TIRED EASILY, ATE LITTLE AND WENT TO BED EARLY.)

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6. AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, PHAM SAID THAT CONTRARY TO REPORTS THERE IS NO REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITY AROUND HO CHI MINH CITY. HE STRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S INSISTENCE ON US FULFILLMENT OF ITS "PROMISE" IN ARTICLE 21 OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT TO GIVE ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAME AND THE LINKAGE OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROMISE WITH THE MIA'S (VIETNAMESE HAVE DONE ALL THEY CAN) AND NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH

THE US.

7. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION WHETHER VIETNAM MIGHT
MEDIATE BETWEEN THE USSR AND CHINA, PHAM SAID THE
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VIETNAMESE WERE FRIENDS OF BOTH. HE ANSWERED
"ABSOLUTELY NOT" TO THE QUESTION WHETHER VIETNAM
WILL BACK COMMUNIST GUERRILLA FORCES IN ASIA WITH
ARMS. ASKED WHETHER VIETNAM IS TRYING TO PLAY THE
SAME ROLE IN ASIA AS YUGOSLAVIA IS IN EUROPE, PHAM
REPLIED, "VIETNAM IS VIETNAM, AND YUGOSLAVIA IS
YUGOSLAVIA."

8. A FIVE-YEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED WITH
THE DANISH GOVERNMENT ON JUNE 1 COVERING TRADE,
TECHNOLOGY AND CULTURE (MUCH THE SAME BOILERPLATE
THE DANES USES IN ALL AGREEMENTS WITH "STATE TRADING
COUNTRIES") AND A JOINT COMMISSION WAS ESTABLISHED.
ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE DANISH COMPANY F.L.
SMIDTH IS CONSIDERING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SECOND
CEMENT PLANT IN VIETNAM; A SUGAR REFINERY IS UNDER
DISCUSSION, AND A.P. MOLLER'S "MAERSK DRILLING" IS
"IN THE PICTURE," TO PROVIDE OIL DRILLING EXPERTISE.
THE VIETNAMESE ARE ALSO INTERESTED IN BUYING DANISH
SHIPS, IDENTIFYING JOINT PROJECTS TO PRODUCE FINISHED
GOODS, AND IN OBTAINING DANISH ASSISTANCE TO BUILD
A SHIPYARD NEAR HO CHI MINH CITY.

9. THE MFA'S CONTROL OFFICER FOR THE VISIT (HARALD
NIELSEN) TOLD US THAT LITTLE NEW OF SUBSTANCE WAS
CONCLUDED ON THE AID SIDE BEYOND THE DISCUSSIONS
HELD IN HANOI IN MARCH BY DANISH MINISTER LISE
OSTERGAARD (REF C).

10. IN HIS BRIEFING ON THE VISIT, GOTTLIEB TOLD
POLCOUNS THAT DURING TALKS WITH THE DANES, PHAM DIS-
PLAYED "SUSPICION AND INTRANSIGENCE" TOWARD THE US.
THE VIETNAMESE PREMIER RETURNED CONSTANTLY TO THE
ECONOMIC AID "PROMISED" BY THE US AND, ALONG THE
LINES OF HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, SAID NORMALIZATION
OF RELATIONS WITH THE US WAS "ILLOGICAL" OUTSIDE
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THE CONTEXT OF US FULFILLMENT OF ITS OBLIGATION OF
SUCH ASSISTANCE. GOTTLIEB SAID THAT PHAM WAS COM-

PLETELY CONFIDENT THAT THE VIETNAMES HAD LIVED UP
TO THEIR SIDE OF THE BARGAIN ABOUT THE AMERICAN MIA'S.

1. GOTTLIEB CONTINUED THAT PHAM TOLD THE DANES THAT
HIS COUNTRYMEN HAVE "NOTHING AGAINST" THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE AND MADE NO SPECIFIC ATTACKS ON THE US OR ITS
GOVERNMENT. ONE OF PHAM'S RECURRENT THEMES WITH
DANISH OFFICIALS WAS VIETNAMESE DESIRE FOR "INDE-
PENDENCE". ACCORDING TO GOTTLIEB, PHAM SPECIFICALLY
SAID THAT THIS ALSO INCLUDED INDEPENDENCE FROM CHINA
AND THE USSR.

12. PRESS COVERAGE WAS ADEQUATE BUT SPOTTY AND
HARDLY EXTRAVAGANT (THIS DUE TO THE VAGARIES OF
DANISH JOURNALISM). ONLY THE LEFTIST INTELLECTUAL
DAILY "INFORMATION" REPORTED AND EDITORIALIZED ON
JORGENSEN'S LUNCHEON REMARKS (SEPTTEL). IN DISCUS-
SING THE OVERALL VISIT, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC DAILY
"AKTUEL" SAID IT UNDERLINED THE CLOSE RELATIONS
BETWEEN DENMARK AND VIETNAM ESTABLISHED DURING THE
WAR. "NOW THE AIM IS TO OVERCOME THE EFFECTS OF THE
WAR, RESTORE AND DEVELOP AN ECONOMY, PROMOTE CULTURE
AND ORGANIZE A SOCIALIST VIETNAM."

LUKENS

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